

Good-News Desk!

The Magazine of Tylers Green Methodist
Church



Minister:
Rev. John Richey

New Series No. 119



January 2018

Dear Friend,

As I write, I'm mindful we're still in the season of Advent, and the various church readings throughout the four weeks remind us in their own way of the need to make internal preparations, meaning one's hearts and minds being prepared to celebrate the coming of the God-child, born into the world; God's perfect gift to humankind throughout the world.

One perfect gift I've received for most of my thirteen years in ministry has been from Ruth (my wife), who's given me an animated toy, which I share at the family Christmas Day service.

This year's animated toy is a dog, which sings several Christmas songs with the odd woof, woof, finishing up by singing: 'We wish you a merry Christmas...'

As I watched the antics of the dog, I was mindful that at Christmas many people (mainly children) will have been given a 'real dog' as gift; in thinking about this, I'm mindful (as probably you are) of the annual TV announcement that happens this time of year, which reminds families that: 'A dog is for life and not just for Christmas.' I guess the TV announcement is to make the TV audience aware that many dogs

often end up at an animal rescue centre as an unwanted gift.

As you read this, Christmas will be over, decorations taken down, and nativity scenes will have been put away in the loft; and the likelihood everything will be forgotten until the time I'm now writing comes around next year.

Often in my experience Jesus is also treated as an unwanted gift, and therefore we need sometimes to remind ourselves that Jesus is not only for Christmas but is for life.

We're now in the 2018 New Year, and I've little doubt that many resolutions and promises will have been made by all manner of people, equally so, there'll be many resolutions and promises that by now have been broken.

Jesus, 2,000 years ago made his life-long promise to us and the world; a promise that comes with a life-time guarantee; his free-gift to us and the world and His going to the cross was the fulfilment of that promise; Jesus' promise is His life-long gift that wasn't just for Christmas.

Let us pray and hope as we journey into this New Year, to attempt keeping one resolution, which is to place Jesus at the centre of our lives in everything we do; by this we become salt and light, which is good news, if not for the whole world, but will be good news for the community we serve.

I wish you, your family and friends and all whom you love a God-Blessed 2018 New Year!

John

Christmas Services

Many thanks to the families of Chris and Margaret Hallam and Carole Bowler for providing three generations of family members to help us to have a good congregation on Christmas Day and thanks to Mike Newsome for playing. At the Carol Service on the 17th December we welcomed old friends Peter and Janet Jackson who travelled down from Kenilworth that morning and to Geraldine and Christine for arranging the service. Our Christmas services were really special.

Diary and Notice board - November 2017

WYCOMBE HOMELESS CONNECTION CLOTHING—See page 5

COFFEE MORNINGS - JANUARY & FEBRUARY: Saturday, 13th January @ 10.00 am. We can chat over coffee about our Christmas & New Year activities. We will also be planning speakers, demonstrations and activities for 2018. Please think about this as your suggestions and ideas would be really helpful. 2017 has been a very good year with such a variety of talks, all well attended, and we hope to repeat this in 2018.

SATURDAY, 10th FEBRUARY - The topic will be decided at the January coffee morning.

BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP: The dates for January and February are:
MONDAY 15th @ 2.30 pm - Venue T.B.A.

" 29th @ 2.30 pm - 3 Green Street, Hazlemere

FEBRUARY: 19th @ 2.30 pm - 59 Roberts Ride (Kathleen's home)

We would love to see some new faces - not that there's anything wrong with the old ones! Why not come along and enjoy a lovely afternoon of Bible Study and shared fellowship led by Rev. Angela.

SECTIONAL TEAR FUND SERVICE

Sunday 4th February at 10.45am when we will be joined by worshippers from Downley, Holmer Green and Naphill Methodist Churches. John will lead the service with a guest speaker from Tear Fund.

TESTIMONY FAITH HOMES

The amount collected from the post box	£53
Christmas morning service	£67
Additional gift	<u>£30</u>
Total from personal giving	£150

This is in addition to £60 from Church Funds. Many thanks to all who contributed.

A message and prayer from the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference

(This press release came on 17th December, shortly after the attack on a Methodist congregation in Pakistan)

Our thoughts and prayers are with our Methodist brothers and sisters in Pakistan after a suicide bomb and gun attack on a church in the city of Quetta. Hundreds of worshippers were inside the church and quick responses prevented a much higher death toll. Many Christians in Pakistan live in a climate of suspicion and discrimination.

Prayer

Compassionate God,
you see the tears and fears of all your people world-wide,
your heart grieves when your children are injured, killed and be-
reaved.

Hear our prayers this day for the people of Pakistan;
comfort those who mourn,
bring healing to those injured
and give courage and grace to those who have been traumatised.
In this season of Advent,
we long for the time when peace and mercy will flow
in all places of conflict and intolerance.

We pray in the name of the Incarnate God-with-us,
Amen.

Windows

She texted her husband from home on a cold winter's morning:
'Windows frozen, won't open.'

He texted back: 'Gently pour some lukewarm water over it.'

She replied five minutes later: 'Computer *really* screwed up now.'

Wycombe Homeless Connection are unable to accept any further clothing items as they have been inundated with donations and have run out of storage space! Ashley has therefore taken everything from TGMC to the Mustard Club which meets on Tuesday evenings in All Saints Church, where he is a volunteer. Many of the guests who meet there for a hot meal and a social time are homeless or have been homeless in recent times. They are all in need of support and therefore will welcome the warm clothing and other items. Ashley will ensure that they are fairly distributed.

(Ashley found this out when he took four huge bags of clothing down to the Oakley Hall this **morning**—2nd January 2018)

Rosemary

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Editor: Lester Amann considers what should happen AFTER we 'finish' Christmas

Lights of the world

Our Christmas celebrations are over. As we tidy up and restore our homes to what they were like before Christmas, we might look back at our festivities and ponder on what was so special about it.

Jesus made clear that He came as light for the world. He came to give life in all its fullness. He came to show God's character—full of love, compassion, forgiveness and mercy.

So if, as we put away our Christmas decorations, we think there is no more to be said until next Christmas, we have missed out on a vital part of the Christian message. For Jesus also said that we, His followers, were to be *the light of the world.....'let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven'*. (Matthew 5:14-16). We are now involved! Jesus calls us, as His disciples, to be like Him this coming year - lights of hope, love, joy, healing and peace in a world that badly needs it.

A song by Graham Kendrick, '*Do Something Beautiful*', urges us to: '*Do something beautiful in the name of Jesus*', and '*Go do something Jesus would*'. Now that's a challenge for 2018!

Tearfund

With a special Tearfund service on 4th February some of you will know that Tearfund is a Christian charity called to follow Jesus wherever the need is greatest

Tearfund works tirelessly to help communities around the world escape the very worst effects of poverty and disaster. They believe that the same people facing these troubles, also have the best idea as to how they can overcome them. Tearfund listens: helping people to rise out of their poverty, utilising their resourcefulness and determination. Tearfund works alongside local churches and other locally-based organisations to help realise these plans for a better future.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

This year the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity runs from 18th to 25th January. The theme of the week this year comes from the churches of the Caribbean, and addresses some of the problems which affect the people there, but also worldwide.

Thus, as abuses of human rights are found across the region, the week will challenge us to consider our manner of welcoming the stranger into our midst. Human trafficking and modern-day slavery continue to be huge issues. Addiction to pornography and drugs continue to be serious challenges to all societies. The debt crisis has a negative impact upon the nations and upon individuals – the economies of the nations and people have become precarious. Family life continues to be challenged by the economic restrictions which lead to migration, domestic abuse and violence.

What are Christians to do, in the face of such vast problems? The Caribbean Churches work together to heal the wounds in people's lives, but also know that reconciliation demands repentance, reparation and the healing of memories. The whole Church is called to be both a sign and an active agent of this reconciliation.

David Pickup, a solicitor, has a light-hearted look at foreign travel this month

Some modern tips for the Wise Men's journey

Suppose you are going abroad, to pay your respects to a newly born royal baby. But the country you visit is under foreign occupation, and you don't know where the baby is. What can you do to make sure you are successful?

When travelling abroad in foreign places, first think carefully about your transport – how many camels will you really need? How will you feed them on the way? And what about relying solely on the stars at night for navigation? Would a Satnav during the day help things along a bit?

When you arrive in the country, be sensitive to the political situation. It may be unwise to go straight to the authorities and ask them where their future king has just been born. This can make leaders uneasy, and can even get innocent people killed. Also, be aware of the country's attitude to different gods, especially if you have gone along intending to worship one in particular.

Don't worry if you are given only part of an address, say, only the name of the town where the baby may be. Go there, and trust that somehow you will feel 'led' to the right house.

Sadly, crime is common in many foreign cities, so if you are carrying expensive presents like gold or frankincense, it is best to keep them out of sight. A coat with large pockets, or even a loose cape, will work fine.

If any problems arise after you find the baby and pay your respects, don't hang about. Pay attention to that nightmare you had last night, and get out of the country before you are arrested. Be happy to take a different route home. After all, it is all under the same stars. Above all, be wise, and have a Happy New Year!

God's New Year's honours list

We are all familiar with the Queen's New Year's honours list, celebrating those who have made a significant contribution to public life. In 2018 famous names included Andy Murray, Mo Farah, Ken Dodd, Patricia Routledge, Angela Rippon, Nick Clegg and Victoria Beckham. However, what would *God's* New Year's honours list look like? In 1 Sam. 2:30 God says, *'Those who honour me I will honour'*. In this New Year, how can we honour God in our lives?

Honouring God means giving Him reverence, submission, and obedience; the complete surrender of our entire lives to His glory and loving service: *'in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship.'* (Romans 12:1). So, we might honour God this year in five key areas:

My Time: how can I use my time to glorify God (Colossians 4:5)?

My Gifts: how am I using my God-given gifts and abilities in His service (Matthew 25:14-30)?

My Body: in what ways do I honour God in my body (1 Corinthians 6:18-20)?

My Treasure: who is in charge of my finances (Matthew 6:24)?

My Heart: how do I honour God not just outwardly, but from my heart: *'These people come near to me with their mouth and honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me'* (Isaiah 29:13)?

Here's a challenge for 2018: When we wake up each day, let's ask God: *'How can I honour you today? Please help me to honour you with the time, gifts, body, finance, and heart that you have given me.'* Jesus Christ gave His life for us, and promises to give us the Holy Spirit to help us to serve Him. *'When the worship is over, let the service begin.'*

Bible Reading Notes – why bother?

It's said that if a ballet dancer doesn't practise for one day, she notices. If she doesn't practise for two days, the class notices and if she doesn't practise for three days, the whole audience notices. It might not be so immediately obvious if Christians don't read the Bible every day, but sooner or later, it will be noticed.

Different Christian traditions give different weight to the habit of daily Bible study, but all are agreed that it's an important discipline: a practice to be

fostered along with prayer, worship, reflection and service, if faith is to grow deep roots.

Our enthusiasm for Bible reading may wax and wane: life becomes busy or difficult, we drift away, get bored, distracted or discouraged until daily Bible study becomes a joyless 'ought', another niggly, guilt-inducing 'should'.

But what if, instead of thinking of it as a duty, we think of it as a gift: a lovely opportunity to sit in God's presence, focus on His word and keep the channels of communication open?

Daily Bible reading notes nourish and inspire on good days, but they come into their own when we're flagging. They provide a structure, a manageable passage of Scripture and the thoughts of a wise, compassionate and experienced commentator.

BRF offers six different series of Bible reading notes from the seriously theological to the quietly contemplative, from notes for women to reflections for older people. The most popular series is the approachable and illuminating New Daylight, offering insight into God and into Scripture. Whichever series you choose, it will introduce you over time to the whole sweep of Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation, allowing you to absorb its wisdom, develop your understanding and encounter daily inspiration, encouragement and challenge.

Thought for the month

I am too blessed to be stressed!

Anon

Interesting quote; but is it true?



...well your sermon on the theme of 'Life under President Trump' seems to have gone down very well, vicar...

A New Year's Prayer

Lord, You make all things new
You bring hope alive in our hearts
And cause our Spirits to be born again.

Thank you for this new year
For all the potential it holds.
Come and kindle in us
A mighty flame
So that in our time, many will see the wonders of God
And live forever to praise Your glorious name.

Amen

(A modern prayer for the New Year from www.lords-prayer-words.com)

And finally...

Dial-a-Prayer

They have Dial-a-Prayer for atheists now.
You ring this number, and it rings and rings, but nobody answers.

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January Sales signs that didn't quite work:

In the window of a department store in Buckingham:
Why go elsewhere to be cheated, when you can come here?

In a men's clothing store in County Durham
15 men's wool suits - £50 - they won't last an hour!

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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Minister: Rev. John Richey* - 📞 526747

Worship Leaders: Geraldine Nelson and Chris Oxby

Senior Church Steward: Peter Stevens*— 📞 815256

Church Stewards:

Toyin Akinwale— 📞 817792

Martin Hellewell— 📞 816168

Geraldine Nelson* – 📞 815631

Chris Oxby* – 📞 814982

Church Treasurer : Geraldine Nelson - 📞 815631

Church Council Secretary: Sue Horley Sue.horley1@gmail.com

Room Bookings: Geraldine Nelson – 📞 815631

Pastoral & First Steps: Christine Stevens - 📞 815256

Property : Peter Stevens— 📞 815256

* Members of the Church Leadership Team

Church Premises

Please mention anything requiring maintenance or attention to any of the Property Stewards: Peter and Christine Stevens, Martin Hellewell or Rosemary Newman.

Good-News Desk

Items for the next Good-News Desk should reach Peter Stevens by the 15th of the month for the following month's edition, either on paper or emailed to psredkite@googlemail.com or 📞 815256

Note: Some items in Good-News Desk are included by subscription to Parish Pump—the resource site for Church Newsletters.



SERVICES DIARY - SERVICES AT 10.45 a.m. unless otherwise stated.

Date	Preacher/Service Details	Vestry Steward	Welcome Stewards <small>If you are unable to do your turn,</small>
7th Jan	Local Arrangement	Geraldine Nelson	Christine Stevens & Jenny Crayford
14th	Rev John Richey (Holy Communion)	Martin Hellewell	Angela Davis & Chris Oxby
21st	Robertta Lunt	Geraldine Nelson	Christine Stevens
28th	Rev Angela Singleton	Toyin Akinwale	Margaret Hallam & Rosemary Newman
4th February	Sectional Tear Fund Service (see page 3)	Peter Stevens	Christine Stevens & Jenny Crayford

PRAY

Please pray for the work of Tearfund and of all other Christian relief organisations. Pray for the Tearfund service on 4th February when we will be joined by folk from all of John's churches.